

App. No.: 10/711339
Filed: September 12, 2004
Conf. No.: 5338

Page 2 of 4

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A position adjusting arrangement for an outboard drive supported for pivotal movement about an axis on a watercraft hull, said arrangement comprising a first unit fixed for pivotal movement relative to the hull and a second unit adapted to be connected to the outboard drive, one of said units comprising a body defining a cylinder bore, the other of said units comprising a piston reciprocating in said cylinder bore and dividing said cylinder bore into two axially spaced chambers and a piston rod fixed to said piston and extending through one of said chambers for connection to the respective of the outboard drive and the hull, and a closed bottom cavity formed in an uppermost surface of said piston spaced inwardly of its engagement with said cylinder bore for receiving and entrapping foreign particles and precluding their entry to the mating surfaces of said piston and said cylinder bore.

2. (Currently Amended) A position adjusting arrangement for an outboard drive supported for pivotal movement about an axis on a watercraft hull, said arrangement comprising a first unit fixed for pivotal movement relative to the hull and a second unit adapted to be connected to the outboard drive, one of said units comprising a body defining a cylinder bore, the other of said units comprising a piston reciprocating in said cylinder bore and dividing said cylinder bore into two axially spaced chambers and a piston rod fixed to said piston and extending through one of said chambers for connection to the respective of the outboard drive and the hull, and a cavity formed in an uppermost surface of said piston spaced inwardly of its engagement with said cylinder bore for receiving foreign particles and precluding their entry to the mating surfaces of said piston and said cylinder bore, and as set forth in claim 1 wherein the cavity is formed below an annular sealing ring positioned at the uppermost surface of the piston above said cavity.

3. (Currently Amended) A position adjusting arrangement as set forth in claim 2 wherein the annular sealing ring has a lip like formed at its upper edge held in sliding relation to the cylinder bore.

4. A position adjusting arrangement as set forth in claim 1 wherein the cavity extends around the circumference of the piston.

5. A position adjusting arrangement as set forth in claim 4 wherein the cavity comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced recesses.

6. A position adjusting arrangement as set forth in claim 1 wherein a circulating system including a reservoir circulates fluid between the reservoir and chambers formed above and below the piston for accumulating particles formed either above or below the piston into the cavity.

App. No.: 10/711339
Filed: September 12, 2004
Conf. No.: 5338

Page 3 of 4

7. A position adjusting arrangement as set forth in claim 6 wherein the piston effects movement of the outboard drive through a plurality of trim adjusted positions.

8. A position adjusting arrangement as set forth in claim 7 wherein the arrangement also includes a tilt piston received in a tilt cylinder bore and connected to the outboard drive from a fully trimmed up position to a tilted up out of the water position.

9. A position adjusting arrangement as set forth in claim 8 wherein the circulating system also operates the tilt piston within the tilt cylinder bore.

10. A position adjusting arrangement as set forth in claim 9 wherein the circulating system circulates fluid between the reservoir and chambers formed above and below the tilt piston for accumulating particles formed either above or below the tilt piston into the cavity.

11. A position adjusting arrangement as set forth in claim 10 wherein the cavity is formed below an annular sealing ring positioned at the uppermost surface of the trim piston.

12. A position adjusting arrangement as set forth in claim 11 wherein the annular sealing ring has a lip like upper edge held in sliding relation to the trim piston cylinder bore.

13. A position adjusting arrangement as set forth in claim 12 wherein the cavity extends around the circumference of the piston.

14. A position adjusting arrangement as set forth in claim 13 wherein the cavity comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced recesses.

App. No.: 10/711339
Filed: September 12, 2004
Conf. No.: 5338

Page 4 of 4

The indicated allowability of claims 2 and 11 subject to their being rewritten in independent form is noted with appreciation. Claim 2 has been so rewritten and is believed to be now allowable. Claim 11 has been retained in dependent form to avoid a possible redundancy.

Claims 3 and 11 have been amended to delete the use of the term "like" as it is believed proper to call the end of the seal a "lip". If the Examiner does not agree or if he feels that the specification should be amended in a like manner, he is most respectfully requested to call the undersigned.

Turning now to the rejection of Claim 1 upon the Nishi et al reference, it is most respectfully submitted that it does not provide a trap for foreign particles as it forms a portion of a passage through the piston. However to make the distinction more clear the claim has been amended to make it clear that the cavity has a closed bottom.

In view of the foregoing it is most respectfully submitted that the case is now in condition for favorable action.

Respectfully submitted:



Ernest A. Beutler
Reg. No. 19901

Phone (949) 721-1182
Pacific Time